

Amendments to the Claims:

Claims 1-12 (previously canceled)

Claim 13 (currently amended): A method of enhancing proliferation or survival of kidney tubule epithelial cells or epithelial cell precursors in a mammal in need thereof, comprising administering to the mammal a composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a zveg4 protein, in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable delivery vehicle, wherein the zveg4 protein is a disulfide-bonded dimer of two polypeptide chains, each of said chains consisting of residues x – y of SEQ ID NO:2, inclusive, wherein the protein is optionally glycosylated, and wherein:

x is selected from the group consisting of 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 24, 25, 35, 52, 175, 176, 177, 178, 179, 180, 181, 182, 183, 184, 185, 246, 250, 253, 254, 255, 256, 257, 258, 259, 260, 261, 262, and 263; and

y is selected from the group consisting of 365, 366, 367, 368, 369, and 370.

Claim 14 (original): The method of claim 13 wherein x is selected from the group consisting of 19, 24, 25, 35, 52, 180, 246, 250, and 258.

Claim 15 (original): The method of claim 13 wherein x is 258 ± 5 .

Claim 16 (original): The method of claim 13 wherein y is 370.

Claim 17 (original): The method of claim 13 wherein x is 258 and y is 370.

Claim 18 (original): The method of claim 13 wherein x is 250 and y is 370.

Claim 19 (original): The method of claim 13 wherein x is 246 and y is 370.

Claim 20 (canceled)

Claims 21-23 (previously canceled)